Autism Safety Training for First Responders & Community Members

Matt Brown, Retired Federal Law Enforcement Officer, Autism Safety Trainer & Parent, Portland, Maine

Individuals with autism spectrum disorder may be more likely to act impulsively, to wander, or run away than their typically developing peers. They are prone to meltdowns, particularly when overwhelmed, as a result of their sensory or processing issues. This creates a higher level of risk for becoming lost or for getting injured. Safety is a critical part of our lives, and always in the minds of families with children who have autism. This training focuses in on the reasons individuals with autism are prone to finding themselves in dangerous situations, and details a number of strategies to prevent, identify and safely respond to such situations. Discussion will include a detailed description of autism and other developmental disabilities and will specifically describe the characteristics of this population that directly impact safety. It will also emphasize specific strategies to employ when working with persons affected by developmental disabilities such as autism, including how to respond during disasters or other critical incidents, and will provide a roadmap to creating a community-wide plan for such scenarios.

Presenter: Matt Brown, Federal Law Enforcement Officer, Autism Safety Trainer & Parent Matt Brown is a 25 yr. veteran of law enforcement who, for the past ten years, has trained thousands of police officers, firefighters and other first responders, as well as educators, on preventing, recognizing, and responding to crisis situations involving persons on the autism spectrum. His combination of experience as both a seasoned law enforcement officer and the proud father of a child on the autism spectrum, provides him with the credibility needed to tackle this challenging issue, and inspire communities to begin autism safety programs in their local areas. He is also the owner and founder of ASET - AUTISM SAFETY EDUCATION & TRAINING, www.aset911.com, which is providing this much needed training nationwide. He was also instrumental in making this training mandatory for all law enforcement in Maine.